Funds provided to Orissa under Rural Sanitation Programme

†1998. SHRI MAN MOHAN SAMAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount provided by the Central Government as Central assistance to the Government of Orissa under the Rural Sanitation Programme to raise the living standard of the people living in the rural areas during the year 1999-2000; and

(b) whether the Central Government would provide additional Central assistance to the State Government for achieving the stipulated targets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Under the Central Rural Sanitation Programme, an amount of Rs. 771.04 lakhs has been released to the Government of Orissa during 1999-2000.

(b) At present, there is no proposal under consideration to give additional Central assistance Under Central Rural Sanitation Programme to the Government of Orissa.

Implementation cost of the Rural Development programmes

1999. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reported statement of the Assam Chief Minister which appeared in the 'News Time' dated the 10th July, 2000 to the effect that the Central Government should bear 90% of the implementation cost of the rural development programmes in the North-Eastern Region;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto and whether Government would seriously consider this demand in the overall interest of the development of the North-Eastern Region; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA): (a) to (c) The issue came up for discussion during the meeting of the Union Minister of Rural Development with the Ministers of Rural Development from North Eastern states (except Assam & Manipur) on 27th July, 2000 at Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi when it was felt that the proposed revision in the formula for sharing of funds between the Centre and the States from 75:25 to 90:10 can only be considered in consultation with the Planning Commission/Ministry of Finance. The North-Eastern States were advised to take up the matter with the Planning Commission.

Funds demanded for SCs/STs

2000. MISS FRIDA TOPNO: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 'Forum of SC/ST Parliamentarians' in its representations submitted to the Prime Minister on 17th December, 1996, 1st September, 1997 and 23rd July, 1998 had demanded allocation of funds for overall development of SCs/STs in proportion to their population from the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the amount of funds demanded by this Ministry in the Ninth Plan for procurement and distribution of agricultural land of SC and ST families; and

(c) the funds allocated and released for the above purpose during the years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment had referred the matter to Planning Commission. The Planning Commission, however, did not find favour with the proposal on the ground that "population" alone cannot be taken as the sole criterion for allocation of funds for development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.